

March 4, 2013

Dear Members of the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee:

I am writing to oppose Section 19 of Senate Bill 843.

When I moved to Connecticut seven years ago, I was shocked to see how much higher electricity rates were here than in any state I had lived in previously. I chose the Standard Plan for convenience --- the complicated options with varying periods of validity, possible cancellation fees, and often higher costs appeared to be adding insult to injury.

Two years ago, however, I did switch to a fixed-rate plan by Dominion Energy which offered significantly lower costs at the time; and initially the savings were considerable. Unfortunately, I forgot to renew the plan before its expiration. By the time I did renew, my oversight had resulted in two months of much higher bills.

At present my savings over the Standard Plan are minor. Based on this experience, I'm considering going back to the Standard Plan and I would certainly not want that option to be removed. The Standard Plan provides a peg point against which other providers can compete, and it gives the consumer a basis for comparison. It also provides a moderate cost option for those who are not able to constantly monitor the market to avoid excessive charges.

Respectfully,

Wilhelm B. Gauster
2 Templeton Court
Avon, CT 06001